WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of gas terminals

*186. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for the setting up of natural gas terminals; and

(b) if so, what are the details alongwith location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) At present there are no terminals for handling imported gas nor is any natural gas being imported. Efforts are being made to increase LPG imports by augmenting terminal facilities.

Follow-up action on Chari Committee Report

*187. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
t SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1931 given in Rajya Sabha on the 13th March, 1989 regarding Chari Committee report relating to 'Issues in Coal' and state:

(a) what follow-up action has been taken by Government on the basis of the report and with what result;

(b) when the Chari Committee was set up and under what background of problems and what changes have been noticed relating to these problems since then; and

(c) whether another Committee has been set up for considering the recommendations of Chari Committee?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The recommendations/observations made by the Special Committee of Secretaries on the report 'ISSUES IN COAL' submitted by Shri Chari are being examined by the Government.

(b) The Chari Committee was set up by the erstwhile Advisory Board on Energy (A.B.E.) in October, 1986 with a view to make a study of main issues in the Coal Sector—the single most important source of energy. The main problems related to Coal Industry at the time of study were low level of output per manshift specially in underground mines, excessive large labour force employed in the industry, mounting cumulative loss despite frequent price re-visions, shortage of coking coal, deteriorating quality of coal, low equipment utilisation etc. Since the time of study, productivity has increased although even now it is at a low level, underground productivity has also shown marginal improvement, labour force in the industry has remained practically constant while the production of coal has increased substantially; equipment utilisation has improved, loss in Coal India Ltd. has also shown a declining trend in last few years.

(c) In accordance with the procedure laid down, the recommendations made by Shri Chari in his report 'Issues in Coal' were considered by a Sub-Committee of A.B.E. The report of the Sub-Committee was considered by the Committee of Secretaries. The Committee of Secretaries have finalised their views on the recommendations made by A.B.E. except regarding organisational change in Coal India Limited.

Essentiality of Psychotherapeutic drugs

@*188. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1646 given in the Rajya

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@Previously Starred Question 108 Transferred from the 25th July, 1989.